

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0006] with the following amended paragraph:

[0006] The present invention generally provides a composite implant for repairing a tissue defect in a patient. In one embodiment, the implant is a porous tissue scaffold having at least one pocket formed therein and adapted to contain a viable tissue. The tissue scaffold can have a variety of shapes and configurations, and in one embodiment it includes top and bottom portions. The top and bottom portions can be at least partially mated to one another, and in an exemplary embodiment they are ~~heated~~heat sealed to one another around a perimeter thereof to form an enclosed pocket therebetween. Heat sealing can be performed either before or after the viable tissue is loaded into the scaffold. In another embodiment, the tissue scaffold is substantially wedge-shaped and the pocket comprises a hollow interior formed in the tissue scaffold, and/or at least one lumen extending into the tissue scaffold. The tissue scaffold can also optionally include at least one surface feature formed thereon to promote blood vessel formation. By way of non-limiting example, the surface feature can be in the form of a plurality of channels formed on an outer surface of the tissue scaffold.